

FACILITY EVALUATION REPORT

FACILITY NAME: WALDEN SCHOOL
ADMINISTRATOR: JUDITH VREELAND
ADDRESS: 848 CENTRAL STREET
CITY: FRAMINGHAM
CAPACITY: 40
TYPE OF VISIT: Case Management
MET WITH: Judith Vreland, Director; Karen Bishop, Asst. Dir.

FACILITY NUMBER: 602300041
FACILITY TYPE: 731
TELEPHONE: (508) 626-8581
ZIP CODE: 01701
DATE: 06/21/2007
TIME BEGAN: 09:00 AM
TIME COMPLETED: 03:00 PM

(Re-Certification)
STATE: MA
CENSUS: 31
UNANNOUNCED

NARRATIVE

PURPOSE OF VISIT

As mandated by California law, this evaluation and on-site review of the out-of-state children's residential (group home) facility referenced above was conducted by the undersigned analyst on June 21, 2007. The purpose of this re-certification evaluation was to determine/verify that the facility continues to:

- have adequate and appropriate resources so as to provide safe, suitable 24-hour residential care, supervision, education and treatment services for the clients served.
- remain in substantial compliance with California licensing standards governing the operation of children's group homes, as well as operating and remaining in good standing with licensing authorities in the state of Massachusetts.

CDSS CERTIFICATION HISTORY AND PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

The Walden School (Learning Center for the Deaf) became subject to certification by the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) in January of 2006 upon agreeing to accept and provide educational, residential and treatment services to a social services dependent (foster child) from San Diego County in California. After a lengthy application process and initial on-site review, certification by CDSS was granted March 6, 2007.

(NOTE: For a complete description and overview of the Walden School and its program, purpose, methods and goals, reference the initial certification report of June 29, 2006.)

INFORMATION ON PLACING ENTITIES/AGENCIES AND CHILDREN IN CARE

The Walden School provides educational and residential treatment services to deaf and hearing impaired children ranging in age from eight to 21. Walden accepts children placed by public/governmental agencies (education, social service, probation) as well as private sources (parents, guardians.)

SUPERVISOR'S NAME: Mei Yuk Kung**TELEPHONE:** (916) 327-8763**LICENSING EVALUATOR NAME:** Carol Lancaster**TELEPHONE:** (916) 323-1692**LICENSING EVALUATOR SIGNATURE:****DATE:** 07/30/2007

Carol Lancaster
I acknowledge receipt of this form and understand my licensing appeal rights as explained and received.

FACILITY REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE:**DATE:** 07/30/2007

This report must be available at Child Care and Group Home facilities for public review for 3 years.

FACILITY EVALUATION REPORT (Cont)Out of State Cert, 744 P Street, M.S. 19-50
Sacramento, CA 95814**FACILITY NAME:** WALDEN SCHOOL**FACILITY NUMBER:** 602300041**VISIT DATE:** 06/21/2007**NARRATIVE****1 INFORMATION ON PLACING ENTITIES/AGENCIES AND CHILDREN IN CARE (Continued)**

2
3 At the time of this year's visit, there was one California child in placement in addition to 30 others from six
4 other states: Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Delaware, Rhode Island and the District of
5 Columbia. The living facilities that comprise the residential portion of the campus program have a collective
6 maximum capacity of 39 beds.
7

8 FACILITY, PHYSICAL PLANT AND PROGRAM REVIEW AND CHANGES:

9
10 Since the facility was first visited and reviewed in 2006, no significant physical plant or program changes have
11 occurred. The main Walden School building is comprised of administrative personnel/staff offices;
12 therapeutic and treatment staff space and amenities; classroom and educational faculties; nursing/ health
13 office, dining room/cafeteria, indoor recreational space and and main residential housing quarters and
14 living/bed space for a maximum of 24 clients. In addition to the main building, there are three other houses on
15 campus used for residential/living quarters, each of which can house 15 clients. These are referred to as the
16 Green House, the Brown House and the Prospect Street. Determining where clients will reside while at
17 Walden School continues to be based on compatability and programming factors such as age, sex, and
18 maturity level of client, as well as each client's needs, abilities and program level. The educational/ school
19 portion of the program operates year round. During weekday/school programming, meals are served out of a
20 main centralized kitchen and eaten in the large dining room at the main building. Evening, non-school day
21 and weekend meals are served out of fully functional kitchens in each of the residential quarters.
22

23 Overall, space is allocated well and ample throughout the facilities and campus. Aside from indoor space,
24 outdoor and recreational space is ample as well.
25

26 EMERGENCY DISASTER PLANNING AND OPERATIONS AND FIRE CLEARANCE

27
28 Inspections conducted by local fire authorities on March 22, 2007 of all programming and residential structures
29 on the campus reflect full compliance with no deficiencies.
30

31 Concerning emergency disaster preparedness, due to the nature of the client base and most staff being deaf
32 or hearing impaired, an elaborate alarm/code system is in place throughout the facility/campus. Various
practice drills are conducted on a routine basis that meet with local laws and authorities.

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Sacramento, CA 95814**FACILITY NAME:** WALDEN SCHOOL**FACILITY NUMBER:** 602300041**VISIT DATE:** 06/21/2007**NARRATIVE**LOCAL STATE LICENSING / COMPLAINT ISSUES

In conjunction with this visit, this certification analyst spoke with the licensing analyst for the facility employed by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Office of Child Care Services by telephone. She indicated that she last conducted an onsite licensing review and evaluation in early May 2007, and that based on this evaluation and review, as well as the facility's willingness and success in correcting minor deficiencies cited, the facility's licenses were re-issued until May of 2009. When asked about the specific nature of the deficiencies cited, she indicated that most related to record keeping issues. She commented that such are not unusual and assured that none of the deficient areas presented an immediate danger, threat or risk of danger to the health and safety of the client population. It was her opinion that the facility does a good job with the very difficult clients it serves.

Concerning any complaints which may have been made and investigated over the last year, the facility administrator was forthright in presenting information concerning the recent termination of a male staff following both an internal and licensing complaint investigation into "poor boundary issues" demonstrated by the male staff with a 14 year old female client. Although no sexual contact or abuse occurred or was perpetrated by the employee, questionable interactions between the two could have been abated had the employee acted more appropriately and professionally by bringing the matter to the attention of management staff before it was misconstrued or escalated. Through reading correspondence provided relative to the investigations, it does not appear that the matter was systemic in nature, and that once discovered, it was acted upon and resolved both expediently and appropriately by management and administration.

ADMINISTRATION AND PLAN OF OPERATION REVIEW:

No significant changes in management and/or administration are noted. Concerning crisis/emergency intervention policies and practices, it is noted that the facility has changed from Crisis Prevention Institute methods and techniques of intervening to Pro-Act and that in doing so, an increased measure of safety and lack of injuries has resulted when diffusing escalated and out-of-control clients.

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Sacramento, CA 95814**FACILITY NAME:** WALDEN SCHOOL**FACILITY NUMBER:** 602300041**VISIT DATE:** 06/21/2007**NARRATIVE**SCOPE OF RE-CERTIFICATION REVIEW:

- Collection of updated and current organization and program information and material.
- Entrance interview with facility director and assistant director.
- Tour/Physical Inspection of the campus and on-grounds structures and amenities; assessment of residential quarters and accommodations - - furniture/bedding, food, kitchen/cooking/eating essentials, toiletries, cleaning supplies and safe storage of same; first aid kit and medication supplies and safe storage of same; adequate laundry facilities, verification of posted license.
- Assessment of emergency procedures and preparedness - - i.e., posted floorplan/diagram illustrating exit and evacuation routes; fire/smoke alarms being in working order; fire drill procedures/log.
- Staff file and training records review.
- Exit interview.

FINDINGS; AREAS OF CONCERN AND/OR THOSE REQUIRING CORRECTION:

As a result of this year's inspection, no areas of non-compliance or substandard conditions were identified that were of cause for concern to the health and safety of clients. Overall, the facility appears clean, safe, sanitary and in good repair and condition; staffing and supervision/ management of same appears adequate; clients accepted appear to be appropriate for program offered. This analyst was impressed with the fact that 100% of direct care staff are fluent in American Sign Language; and that 80 to 90% are hearing impaired themselves. It is obvious that all administration and staff are committed to the work they do with the children they teach and serve and that the bonds between the two are strong.

CERTIFICATION DECISION:

Re-Certify

SUPERVISOR'S NAME: Mei Yuk Kung**TELEPHONE:** (916) 327-8763**LICENSING EVALUATOR NAME:** Carol Lancaster**TELEPHONE:** (916) 323-1092**LICENSING EVALUATOR SIGNATURE:**

838-5257

DATE: 07/31/2007

I acknowledge receipt of this form and understand my appeal rights as explained and received.

FACILITY REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE:**DATE:** 07/31/2007